



#### Who We Are: Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

#### **Key Statistics**

#### **Cultural and Natural Resources**

- •2040 acres
- •901 known plant species
- •354 known animal species
- •20 structures
- •3 miles of paved road
- •3 miles of maintained trail
- •12 miles of unpaved road
- •38,222 catalogued museum objects
- •13 documented archaeological sites

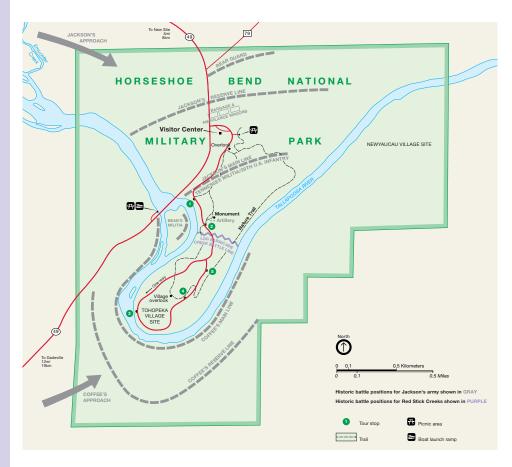
#### **Fiscal Resources**

- •\$790.000 for 2008
- •Funding for Youth Conservation Corps program, replacement of boat ramp, and support for our volunteer militia

#### **About You**

- •1.0 millions travelers on Highway 49 pass through the park each year
- •70,000 visitors use the Tour Road, Nature Trail, and park grounds
- •15,000 visitors use the Tallapoosa River access
- •25,000 visitors make use of the park visitor center, bookstore, and auditorium
- •26,000 people benefit from park provided special events and programs each year
- •Park Visitation has increased 7% over the past decade

The purpose of Horseshoe Bend National Military Park is to commemorate the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and the people involved in the battle; to develop the means for the public to understand, appreciate, benefit from, and enjoy the park; to preserve the battlefield and associated landscape; and to interpret the cultural relationships and conflicts leading to the Creek War as well as the War's impact on the Creek people, and on the War of 1812 and on the western expansion of the United States and the role this war played in the career of Andrew Jackson and the development of our nation.



### Preface

This five-year Strategic Plan has been written for a unit of the greater National Park System administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The National Park System preserves outstanding representations of America's natural, cultural, and recreational resources of national significance. These resources constitute a significant part of America's heritage, character, and future. The National Park Service not only directly and indirectly preserves these national treasures; it also makes them available to millions of visitors from throughout the country and the world every year.

Strategic Plans were written to fulfill the requirements of Section 104 of the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998. This legislation requires all field units of the National Park System prepare Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans consistent with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and make these documents available to the public. The law was a catalyst for our staff to examine its fundamental mission and to take a fresh, longer range view, in precise terms, of what results or outcomes we needed to achieve to more effectively and efficiently accomplish that mission.

The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) is one of the most recent and comprehensive of a number of laws and executive orders directing federal agencies to join the "performance management revolution" already embraced by private industry and many local, state, and national governments. Performance management ensures that daily actions and expenditure of resources are guided by long- and short-term goal setting in pursuit of accomplishing an organization's primary mission, followed by performance measurement and evaluation. Importantly, GPRA mandates that long-term and annual goals be results or outcomes rather than outputs (activities, products, or services) and that they be "objective, quantifiable, and measurable" so that performance can be adequately measured and reported, and progress on mission accomplishment assessed.

GRPA requires federal agencies to develop and use three primary documents in conducting their business. These documents are also to be submitted to the Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB):

### 1. Strategic Plan of no less than five years duration, reviewed and revised every three years, and containing:

Mission statement based in law

- \*Long-term goals, which are objective, quantified, and measurable, to accomplish mission
- \*How goals will be accomplished, is the plan data and narrative showing "...operational processes, skills and technology, and the human, capital, information and other resources required to meet those goals..."
- \*Relationship of annual goals to long term goals, a description of how long term goals are carried out in annual goal increments
- \*Key external factors which could positively or negatively affect goal accomplishment
- \*GPRA also requires consultation with affected and interested parties in the development of the Strategic Plan, and it requires that the plan be developed by federal employees.

### 2. Annual Performance Plan tiered off the Strategic Plan each year, showing how long term goals will be accomplished in annual increments, and containing:

- \*Annual goals to incrementally achieve long-term goals in Strategic Plan
- \*Aannual work plan explaining how annual goals will be accomplished "briefly describe the operational processes, skills and technology, and the human, capital, information and other resources required to meet the performance goals...." and basis for measuring results "...provide a basis for comparing actual program results with the established performance goals...."

# 3. Annual Performance Report reviewing each year's successes and failures and identifying areas where activities or goals need to be revised in the future, addressing:

- \*What annual goals were met or exceeded
- **\***What annual goals were not met
- \*Why annual goals were not met
- **★**What remedial action will be taken for goals not met.



Horseshoe Bend National Military Park was established by Congress in 1959 to commemorate the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and the people involved in the battle. Specifically, park managers are tasked with developing the means through which the public can better understand, appreciate, and benefit from and enjoy the park while preserving the battlefield and associated landscapes.

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park 11288 Horseshoe Bend Road Daviston, Alabama 36256

#### Hours

Grounds: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily Visitor Center: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Daily

Phone

256-234-7111

Fax

256-329-9905

Website

http://www.nps.gov/hobe

Email

hobe\_information@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

### About This Plan

In consultation with Congress, OMB and other interested parties, the National Park Service (NPS) developed its own GPRA implementation process. In 2004 the Department of the Interior (DOI) produced a Strategic Plan requiring all agencies in the Department to be aligned with. It is available on the Internet at http://www.doi.gov/

Individual park plans address the long-term goals in the NPS and DOI plans that are appropriate to the individual units as parts of the overall National Park System and its mission. Then they add goals specific to their own legislative mandates, missions, resources, visitor services, and issues. The park plans, then, are a blend of national and local priorities and goals.

This Strategic Plan follows that pattern. It contains a mission statement born out of the NPS organic act as well as the specific legislation or proclamation establishing the park. It contains mission goals, closely paralleling the "servicewide" mission goals that illustrate in broad brushstroke what we do far beyond five years - "in perpetuity" - to accomplish our stated mission. It then contains long-term goals, which target in quantifiable, measurable ways what we will accomplish in the next four years toward achieving our overall mission goals and mission. The long-term goals address both appropriate "servicewide" goals as well as park-specific outcomes. The goal numbering protocol follows that of the NPS plan with park-specific suffixes. Since not all servicewide goals apply to every park, some numbers may be skipped. In addition, there are numbers containing o's which are not in the servicewide plan and indicate park - specific goals.

Each long-term goal is repeated with one or more explanatory paragraphs that give background, detail, and other information useful to help the reader understand the goal as well as to sketch in how the goal will be accomplished. The figures in the tables and narrative for each goal contain any general information about "How Goals will be Accomplished", including staffing, fiscal, infrastructure, and other resources available to achieve the plan's long-term goals.

It should be noted that the goals in this plan are generally predicated on "flat budgets". Other than increases for inflation, we assumed no major increases in funding. Where increases in appropriations are known or are likely, they were taken into account. Where other funding sources (donations, fee revenues, etc.) are "reasonably assured", they too are taken into consideration when setting performance targets. Obviously, limits on funding constrain what can be accomplished toward our goals and mission. GPRA, however, is distinctly not about discussing budget shortfalls or requesting or justifying additional funding. Rather it is about planning, managing, and communicating what we can accomplish with the resources we already have while at the same, providing accountability for those resources.

Each year that the Strategic Plan is in effect, there will be a companion Annual Performance Plan which shows in annual goals, that year's targeted incremental achievement of each long-term goal, and a work plan for accomplishing that increment. Each year there will also be an Annual Performance Report discussing actual achievement of the prior year's annual goals and progress on long-term goals.

Questions and comments are encouraged and should be addressed to Park Superintendent via email at **hobe\_superintendent@nps.gov** or mailed to the park mailing address.

### About the Park

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park was established by Presidential Proclamation on August 11, 1959, as authorized by an Act of Congress, approved July 25, 1956. The park, containing 2040 acres, is located in eastern Alabama. The park preserves the battlefield and historic landscape in perpetuity, and makes this valuable part of America's heritage available to thousands of visitors each year for their experience, enjoyment, understanding, and appreciation. The park receives approximately 100,000 recreational visitors annually, and about one million total visits, including residential traffic.

#### Mission of National Park Service at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

The mission of the National Park Service at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park is rooted in and grows from the 1959 Presidential Proclamation and the park's legislated mandate found in the Act of Congress (70 Stat. 651, Public Law 800, 84th Congress, 1956 Chapter 729, 2nd Session, HR 11766).

#### Legislative Intent

The Presidential Proclamation and the park's legislation mandate the National Park Service to:

- \*Set the area apart as a unit of the National Park System for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States;
- \*Administer, protect, and develop the park, subject to the provisions of the National Park Service Organic Act;
- \*Construct and maintain necessary roads, trails, markers, buildings, and other improvements, and such facilities for the care and accommodation of visitors.

#### **Purpose**

The park was established to commemorate the last major battle of the Creek Indian War (1813-1814) which took place within a horseshoe-shaped bend of the Tallapoosa River, in what is now Tallapoosa County, Alabama. The Creek Indian War consisted of 17 battles, with the final and most significant battle fought at Horseshoe Bend on March 27, 1814. In this battle 3,300 frontier troops and Indian allies under the command of Andrew Jackson defeated 1,000 Creek warriors who had fortified themselves behind a seemingly impregnable log barricade. More than 800 Creek Indians were killed, ending for all time the military power of the Creek Nation.

Therefore, the purpose of Horseshoe Bend National Military Park is to commemorate the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and the people involved in the battle; to develop the means for the public to understand, appreciate, benefit from, and enjoy the park; to preserve the battlefield and associated landscape; and to interpret the cultural relationships and conflicts leading to the Creek War as well as the War's impact on the Creek people, and on the War of 1812 and on the western expansion of the United States and the role this war played in the career of Andrew Jackson and the development of our nation.

#### **Significance**

The primary significance of Horseshoe Bend National Military Park can be summarized as:

- \*The battle resulted in the forced emigration of the Creek People.
- \*The decisive battle lead to the creation of the state of Alabama and westward expansion of the young United States.
- \*The battle established the prominence of Andrew Jackson.
- \*More Native American lives were lost in this battle than in any single battle with U.S. troops in the history of the United States.
- \*Presents a unique venue for the interpretation of the history of the Creek people.
- \*Preserves one of the few War of 1812 sites that is open to the public and interpreted.

### Key External Factors Affecting Accomplishment

While park management and staff can plan, manage, and largely control much of what occurs in the park, other things they can only influence, especially things external to park boundaries. Some things, such as natural events, they have no control over whatsoever. In developing Horseshoe Bend National Military Park's Strategic Plan and its long-term goals, it was important to take into consideration key external factors that could negatively or positively affect goal outcomes. A few of the most important or most likely are identified briefly below. This is by no means an exhaustive list but simply those that are most likely to influence outcomes as viewed at the time of writing the plan.

#### Water Resources

The Tallapoosa River is the life blood of the park's natural resources, as it flows four miles through the park. Alabama Power Company regulates water release and river flow entirely for electrical purposes at Harris Dam, approximately 35 miles above the park boundary. The current water release regimen causes river fluctuations of several feet every day, measured by USGS within the park. Antidotal evidence suggests this artificial flow variation may have severely impacted fisheries and other river dependent species within the park.

Concurrently, the dam may be partially responsible for increased flooding during heavy rain events, when the captured water of Harris Lake, above the dam, is released too quickly. Severe floods may threaten the stability of the park's two known American Indian cultural sites, the Tohopeka Village Site, and the New Yauka Village Site, as well as non-historic park resources such as roads and trails.

The ongoing "water wars" between Georgia, Alabama and Florida create a tremendous unknown to the flow quantity of the Tallapoosa River as it traverses the park. Recent attempts to come to agreement between the States have collapsed and the issue of water use has apparently been returned to Federal Court. The National Park Service was actively engaged with the Federal Commissioner to help protect river resources during the inter- state negotiations. The Service may have even less influence with the issue being returned to the court.

#### **Natural Disasters**

Hurricane, tornado and wildland forest fires are frequent threats to the 2040 acres of the park. From past experience we know that these events, much like flooding, require park staff to concentrate on emergency preparation and cleanup operations rather than normal park operations. Customary tasks such as public education, maintenance, and visitor services stop until the event has passed and cleanup is completed and we are able to reopen the park to the visitors and provide a safe visit.

During the park's history, there has not been any recorded forest fires within the boundaries of the park. Horseshoe Bend NMP encompasses over 1,700 acres of medium-aged second growth forest. Over the past 30 years, there has been a significant increase in flammable ground fuels. Although the park has developed an approved fire management plan and has initiated fuel reduction projects, the amount and degree of hazardous fuels in the park, combined with frequent, severe lightening storms and seasonally high fire danger (in late summer and fall) will continue to provide a threat to park resources for some years to come.

#### **Human Resources**

Horseshoe Bend is staffed by ten permanent full-time employees. The Interpretation Division and the Protection & Resource Mgt Division each have two FTE to provide visitor services, education, visitor and resource protection and resource management duties for the approximately 100,000 annual recreation visitors. Staffing limitations will continue to effect the number and types of interpretive programs the park provides the public as well as the number and type of resource monitoring and restoration projects which can be completed. During times of illness, training, or vacancies, staff from other division must be called away from their jobs to provide for the visitors.

#### **Area Population Increasing**

The rural atmosphere of Horseshoe Bend NMP is threatened by the increasing population of neighboring Lee County. The area has been listed in multiple publications as a highly desirable retirement area, resulting in an increase in population. Due to the influx of retirees moving into the area, rural land prices have increased dramatically. It is now beneficial to landowners to sell lands that were previously used for farming and pasturelands. Development is proposed on the park boundary as of 2007. If development continues, the park will experience increased highway traffic, waste product pollution, noise, and other urban sprawl issues.

#### Local and Regional Economic Situation

Although the area is seeing increased influx of retirees, this county has experienced a marked decline in industry and economic development. For many decades, Tallapoosa and the surrounding counties were dependent on Russell Corporation's huge mill and clothing industry for their economic stability. During the past decade, Russell and other mills have downsized. The resulting impact on the local economy can not be over emphasized. Many smaller business have closed and overall economic health has been severely diminished.

The County and the two larger cities have begun efforts to attract newer, smaller industries and have seen some success, but the overall economic climate continues to be pessimistic. This has limited the park's ability to partner with business and other governmental agencies and reduced the interest in organizing an effective "friends" group.

## Consultation to Prepare Original Plans

GPRA requires that Congress, OMB, and other interested and affected parties be consulted in the development of Strategic Plans. Congress and OMB, as well as the Department of the Interior, were extensively consulted in the development of the DOI and NPS servicewide plan. In the development of Horseshoe Bend National Military Park's local Strategic Plan, the following individuals and/or organizations were consulted at various stages of development as indicated.

The park' original Strategic Plan was developed in 1998, based on a Management Objectives Workshop held fourteen months earlier. That workshop brought together a diverse group consisting of National Park Service, State, local, and organization officials, who collectively:

- ♠Reviewed the legislation relating to HOBE
- ◆Developed a statement of purpose for the park
- \*Developed a statement of significance that reflects the park's distinctive position in the NPS and it's major attributes
- \*Lists the issues affecting the park
- \*Listed objectives the park should follow for the next ten years.

This current version of the park's Strategic Plan is based in large part upon that earlier document, and upon Long Range Interpretive Planning workshops held last year in the park. These workshops included representatives of local government, local school system, historical association, academics, State Historical Commission, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

### Participants of 1996 Management Objectives Workshop Park Partners

- #Jimmy Abbett, Tallapoosa County Sheriff
- \*Col. Dick Bronson, Director Lake Martin Lake Watch
- #Judge C.J. Coley, Tallapoosa County
- \*Darla Graves, Alabama Indian Affairs Commission
- \*Prencella Hamby, Chairman, Dadeville Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee
- \*Barry Ingram, President Dadeville Area Chamber of Commerce
- \*Ned Jenkins, Fort Toulouse/Jackson State Historical Park
- \*Farrell Tidwell, Mayor, Town of Dadeville
- \*Bruce Wallace, Publisher The Alexander City Outlook

#### Other National Park Service Staff

- \*Bob Blythe, Historian, Atlantic Coast System Support Office
- \*Martha Bogle, Superintendent Congaree Swamp NHS
- \*Mary Collier, Assistant Superintendent Cape Hatteras NS

- \*Kay Garner, Atlantic Coast System Support Office
- \*Bob Newkirk, former Superintendent Atlantic Coast System Support Office
- \*Sarah Zimny, Stewardship and Partnership Team, Atlantic Coast System Support Office Horseshoe Bend National Military Park
- \*Harry Cook, Park Ranger
- \*James David, former Superintendent
- \*Millard Patterson, Maintenance
- #John Reid, Park Ranger
- \*Steve Vines, Maintenance

### Participants of 2003 Long Range Interpretive Planning Workshops Park Partners

- \*Dr. Richard Allen, Historic Preservation Officer, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- \*Ralph Banks, Volunteer- In Parks, Horseshoe Bend NMP
- \*Joyce Bear, Historic Preservation Officer, Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- \*James Bird, Cultural Resources Director, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- \*Dr. Kathryn Braund, Professor, Auburn University
- \*Paul Farmer, Vice-President, Tallapoosa County Historical Commission
- \*Jim Parker, Site Manager, Fort Toulouse/Jackson Sate Historical park
- \*Emily Patterson, Teacher, Dadeville, Alabama Elementary Schools
- \*Tim Thompson, Cultural Advisor, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

#### Other National Park Service Staff

- \*Mary Mallen, Interpretive Planner, Harpers Ferry Center
- \*Polly Nordstrand, Curator/Exhibit Planner, Harpers Ferry Center
- \*Chris Revels, Chief Ranger, Kings, Mountain National Military Park
- \*Roberta Wendell, Wayside Exhibit Designer, Harpers Ferry Center
- \*Don Wollenhaupt, Southeast Regional Chief of Interpretation

#### Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

- \*Ove Jensen, Park Ranger, Lead Interpreter
- \*Mark Lewis, Superintendent
- \*Mike Manning, Park Ranger, Law Enforcement/Resource Management
- \*Steve Vines, Maintenance

#### Strategic Plan Preparers through 2007

The following park staff members were intimately and extensively involved in preparing this strategic plan:

- \*Jim Cahill, Chief Ranger
- \*Steve Crowder, Chief of Maintenance
- ◆Vicki Garrett, Administrative Assistant
- ☀Ove Jensen, Park Ranger, Lead Interpreter
- \*Alice Faye Johnson, Administrative Officer
- \*Mark Lewis, Superintendent

#### Staff Responsible for the FY08 through 12 Plan Are:

- \*Rand Becker, Visitor Use Assistant
- \*Danica Colley, Administrative Officer (Acting)
- \*Kevin Colley, Park Ranger, RM/VP
- #Jim Cahill, Supervisory Park Ranger, RM/VP
- \*Steve Crowder, Facility Manager
- \*Steve Vines, Maintenance Mechanic
- #Heather Tassin, Park Guide
- \*Ove Jensen, Park Ranger, ICRM
- \*Marianne Mills, Superintendent

### Fiscal Year 2008 Plan and Goals

#### Use of Managed Fire (NPS Goal Ia13)

In 2008, Horseshoe Bend NMP plans to reduce forest fuel load 40% on at least one burn unit identified in the 2003 Fire Management Plan.

To accomplish this, park staff will work with a team of NPS fire professionals based at Great Smoky Mountains National Park to conduct a prescribed burn in the park in February or March, 2008 - depending on weather conditions.

#### Restoration of Land Previously Used for Agriculture (NPS Goal Ia1A)

In 2008, the park will work toward the restoration of 2 acres in the park that was used for agricultural purposes between 1815 and 1959.

To accomplish this, the park will use mechanical and chemical means to reduce non-native plant species on targeted land.

NOTE: 2008 is the last year Horseshoe Bend NMP will report on this goal. The Managed Fire goal is new this year and the activities we report under this goal are redundant with what we report under Fire and Invasive Plant Management.

#### Reduction of Targeted Invasive Plants (NPS Goal Ia1B)

In 2008, Horseshoe Bend NMP will have 0.5 acre of park land infested with Chinese privet free of this invasive plant. Additionally, three acres will be treated using mechanical or chemical means to reduce targeted invasive plants.

The targeted non-native plant species for the park are Chinese privet, mimosa, Japanese honeysuckle, and kudzu.

#### Maintenance of Historic Structures (NPS Goal Ia5)

In 2008, park staff will continue to monitor the condition of the park's four structures on the List of Classified Structures to insure that the two determined to be in good condition remain in this condition and to document any deterioration to the two considered to be in poor condition.

The four structures listed are the Congressional Monument, the Daughters of 1812 Monument, the grave marker of Lemuel Pernell Montgomery, the ruins of the Miller Covered Bridge.

#### Preservation of Museum Collections Using NPS Standards (NPS Goal Ia6)

In 2008, Horseshoe Bend NMP will continue to meet 105 out of 130 applicable standards on the agency museum collection checklist.

The park cannot increase compliance under this goal without a new museum storage facility; however, since 97% of the park's artifacts are stored offiste at another NPS repository, seeking funds for storage of the few items onsite is low priority. These onsite collections are well maintained and secured.

#### Maintenance of Archaeological Sites (NPS Goal Ia8)

In 2008, park staff will continue to monitor the condition of the park's 13 known archaeological sites and insure that the 10 considered to be in good condition remain in that condition.

#### Visitor Satisfaction with Park Facilities, Services, and Recreation (NPS Goal IIa1A)

In 2008, park staff will work toward continuing a high level of maintenance, resource protection, and visitor services to merit at least 96% visitor satisfaction on the annual visitor survey.

#### Visitor Safety and Accidents (NPS Goal IIa2A)

In 2008, Horseshoe Bend NMP will provide a safe environment for visitors, resulting in five or fewer visitor injuries or accidents while visiting the park.

#### Visitor Fatalities (NPS Goal IIa2B)

In 2008, park staff will work toward insuring a park setting conducive to safety that results in no visitor fatalities within park boundaries.

#### Visitor Understanding of Park Significance (NPS Goal IIb1)

In 2008, Horseshoe Bend NMP staff will continue efforts to insure that at least 88% of the visitors to the park indicate they understand the significance and purpose of the park on the park's annual visitor survey.

#### Visitor Satisfaction with Park Provided Programs (NPS Goal IIb2)

In 2008, park staff will present talks, demonstrations, school programs, special events, and similar activities that result in visitors responding at least 95% satisfied with the quality of these activities on the annual visitor survey.

#### Employee Health and Safety (NPS Goal IVa6A)

In 2008, the staff of Horseshoe Bend NMP will have one or fewer on the job injuries that results in time lost to work.

The park has implemented a Safety Incentive Program in 2008 to encourage a safe working environment.

#### Employee Hours Off Duty Due to On the Job Injury (NPS Goal IVa6B)

In 2008, the staff of Horseshoe Bend NMP will reduce hours lost to the park due to on the job injury to less than the 2007 level of 256 hours.

The park has implemented a Safety Incentive Program in 2008 to encourage a safe working environment.

#### Community Partnerships (NPS Goal IVb1A)

In 2008, the superintendent of Horseshoe Bend will work toward having eight community partnerships with at least four formalized via agreements or similar documents.

#### Visitor Attendance at Park Programs (NPS Goal IVb2)

In 2008, attendance at park programs will number at least 23,818.

This will be achieved via increased promotion of programs, press kits, posters, and similar activities to raise aware of park activities.

# Fiscal Year 2009 and Beyond

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park will continue to plug away on these goals each year, adding or deleting goals as pertinent. An Annual Performance Report for the year ending and an Annual Performance Plan will be available each year from the Office of the Superintendent, as well as posted on the park's website at http://www.nps.gov/ Click on the Management link to get to this and other key park documents.

#### Centennial of the National Park Service, 2016

The agency National Park Service was established on August 25, 1916. To mark the 100th anniversary of this establishment, Congress has established a program called the Centennial Iniative. Through this funding, parks who work with partners to raise funds for key park projects will find their partners' dollars matched on a 1:1 basis. In other words, if Horseshoe Bend can raise \$25,000, the park will have \$50,000 toward an identified project provided by Congress.

Horseshoe Bend has ideas for Centennial projects. They are:

- •Addition of a 100 seat theater onto the existing visitor center. The park has outgrown its current 20 seat multi-purpose room and cannot accommodate school groups or attendance at special events.
- •Construction of a small outdoor amphitheater. This would provide outdoor seating during special events and school visits for up to 60 visitors and provide a setting for Creek Indian cultural demonstrations, military weapons demonstrations, and other programs.
- •Installation of restroom facilities and improvements at the park's picnic area. The park's picnic area is heavily used, particularly by families on weekends and for group visits. It is currently a very minimal development and lacks restrooms.
- •Improvement of old trail system and unpaved road system for improved access to park undeveloped areas. When the park was established in 1959, several access roads and trails existed due to past agricultural use and Scout Groups. Some of these informal developments are still apparent and provide a different visitor experience for those who desire a more in-depth exploration into the setting of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and the Creek Indian settlement area, as well as different types of access such as via bicycle or horse. Approximately eight to fifteen miles of additional trail could be developed with careful planning and implementation.
- •Development of the Ranger on the Road program that would take a park staff member into area schools, as well as development a series of community contacts who could maintain Traveling Trunks for teachers to check out without having to travel to the park. We would also like to train and develop community educators who could give offsite programs in their communities more than 60 miles from the park.

At this writing, these are all simply good ideas. They can't happen without you and your support. The first logical step is to develop a 501(3)(c) non-profit partner group, frequently known as a "Friends" group. Contact via email at hobe\_superintendent@nps.gov or by calling (256) 234-7111 to get involved.



Horseshoe Bend National Military Park 11288 Horseshoe Bend Road Daviston, Alabama 36256

#### **EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

### Park Newsletter and Mailing List

In 2008, Horseshoe Bend National Military Park will implement a quarterly newsletter called *Just Around the Bend*. Electronic editions can be downloaded from the park's website at **www.nps.gov.hobe** Click on the **Management** link to the left of the screen.

If you would to subscribe to it electronically, email hobe\_superintendent@nps.gov and enter Newsletter in the subject line. To subscribe to the print edition, send a postcard with name and mailing address to the address below. Make sure to indicate you want to be added to the park mailing list.

#### Superintendent

Marianne M. Mills

#### Comments or Questions? Write to:

Superintendent Horseshoe Bend National Military Park 11288 Horseshoe Bend Road Daviston, Alabama 36256

#### Email

hobe\_superintendent@nps.gov

#### **Mark Your Calendar**

March 29 and 30, 2008: Anniversary of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend Two days of special activities on the park grounds from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.

#### April 19 through 27, 2008: National Park Week

Give aways for visitors and the opportunity to partcipate in some natural resource management projects as a volunteer.

#### April 26: Horseshoe Bend Junior Ranger Day

Special children's programs, give aways, and a special visitor.

#### **Upcoming**

Summer, 2008

#### **Kid's Culture Camps**

After success with our 2007 program, in 2008, we will add more Culture Camps for those between 6 and 12 to include Creek Indian culture, life of a soldier, and life of a creature of Horseshoe Bend. At least three different camps will be offered between Jun3 20 and August 5, 2008.

#### Muster on the Tallapoosa

This smaller version of the March event will be held in late August.

#### **Living History Days**

The last Saturday of each month, the Horseshoe Bend Volunteer Militia, led by Captain Ove Jensen, conducts training drills on park grounds.

All activities are free. More events to be added!